



JANUARY ONE-LINER 2024



News You Can Use



Seniors – Finish Strong – Once you have a college offer in hand, you may get the urge to coast through the rest of the school year. However, it's important to avoid that urge & finish strong.

Colleges, especially selective universities, have been known to withdraw offers of admission to students who drop college prep classes or begin earning low grades. Taking a breather during your senior year can also make your freshman year in college more difficult because you are not prepared for the workload of college courses. Have fun in these coming months but don't let up on your college preparation.

UW Campus Updates:

1. Campus Housing – Freshman who have been accepted for admission are prompted to pay the enrollment deposit. Upon receipt of that, campus housing will be sent. Residence halls at the UW Colleges have been at or near capacity for the past several years and 2024-25 will be no exception. Students are encouraged to apply now! Students who wait may be disappointed.

3. Freshman Applications – December 1 to February 1 is the first priority date for most campuses. Students who submitted an application prior to those deadlines should hear from a campus in a timely manner. Applications received after those deadlines are evaluated on a space available basis and usually take about 3-4 weeks to process.

4. Postponed Acceptance/Wait List – Students whose applications were postponed are encouraged to provide updated transcripts, ACT scores, and

letters of recommendation. If students on the wait list have done nothing, this will be noted.

5. Scholarship Applications – Scholarship applications are typically available online. Deadline to apply for freshman scholarships is anywhere from December 1 to February 1. Check the deadlines at your college of choice.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLACEMENT TESTING PROGRAM

Which math, English, and foreign language courses can you take your first year of college? For most UW System schools, you'll need to take placement tests to find out. Incoming freshmen typically take them through the [Regional Testing Program](#) a few months before starting college.

You'll need to [register](#) for your placement test dates ahead of time. Registration opens in February, and tests take place in spring and summer. If you're unable to take them during the times offered, contact the campus you plan to attend. Your admissions letter should state who to contact in this situation and list which tests you need to take.

You can find information on the Regional Placement website: testing.wisc.edu/centerpages/regionaltesting.html. You will see which sites are open & get immediate confirmation that can be printed on the spot. No confirmation letters will be mailed to you so be sure to print the confirmation information when you register.

UW Videos on You Tube: UW HELP presentations on Budgeting & Financial Aide as well as Application demos are available to watch on UW HELP You Tube channel. www.youtube.com/user/uwHelp



VISITING SCHOOL CAMPUSES

Four-Year Campus Preview Days – Check online for specialty preview days at all campuses.

SOUTHWEST TECH'S CAMPUS VISIT OPTIONS

Tour & Swag – A one-hour personalized visit with a SWTC staff member. Shadow your program of interest, information session & free t-shirt. Registration is required.

Tour & Lunch – A two-hour personalized visit with a SWTC staff member. Shadow your program of interest, information session & free lunch. Registration is required.

One on One Personal Visit – Shadow your program for a longer period of time; attend one or more classes. Registration is required.

ACT[®] Test Dates

2023-24 ACT Dates & Registration

ACT Test Date	ACT Regular Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
February 10, 2024	January 5, 2024	January 19, 2024
April 13, 2024	March 8, 2024	March 22, 2024
June 8, 2024	May 3, 2024	May 17, 2024
July 13, 2024	June 7, 2024	June 21, 2024

Free ACT Test Prep:

1. ACT Academy – go to act.org

2. Preparing for the ACT – This is a booklet that summarizes general test-taking strategies, describes content of each of the tests and informs you of what to expect on test day. It includes an ACT practice test, a sample answer document and scoring instructions.
3. Other Online Options: www.act.org/standard/index.html
www.knowhow2gowisconsin.org



Associate Training Services – ATS is America’s oldest and largest heavy equipment school in Wisconsin. They offer short-term, skills-oriented programs in: Heavy Equipment Operation, Mobile Crane Operation, CDL Truck Driving, Rigging, Horizontal Directional Drilling. This school is located in Sun Prairie, WI.

WI American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy – Are you interested in a career in law enforcement or related career? This academy is the perfect experience for you. This program is a 5-day camp that offers physical fitness training, classroom instruction & hands on experience.

The academy is scheduled for July 29-August 2, 2024 at the Wisconsin State Patrol Training Academy at Fort McCoy. There is NO COST for this event. All meals & supplies are furnished.

Applications are due by March 31, 2024



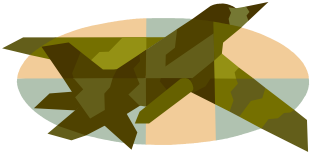
Go to Job Center of Wisconsin - <https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/>

Cabela’s – Hiring part time & seasonal shifts. Starting wage \$15.50 & earn up to \$17.00 per hour. Apply at basspro.com/careers or stop in Ms. Townsend’s office for QR code.

Pattison Sand Company – Positions available: Maintenance, Rail Loadout Operators, Mine Laborers, Sand Crushing Line Operators, Entry Level Electricians, Entry Level Heavy Equipment Diesel Mechanics.

Starting wage \$19.50 + an additional \$3.00/hr on night shift. Educational & apprenticeship programs are available.

Apply Online: <http://www.pattisonsand.com/pattison-careers/>



MILITARY INTERESTS

There are many opportunities for training and education through military service. If you are interested in this direction, contact a recruiter in our area and schedule to take the ASVAB (entrance exam for the military).

Prairie du Chien High School is offering the ASVAB on February 7, 2024. Please register with Ms. Townsend.



Financial Aid



Finish up Financial Aid Applications

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The preferred FAFSA filing date for multiple campuses is approaching. I encourage you to review the deadlines for your specific campus. To review deadlines for all UW campuses, please visit <https://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/pay-for-college/about-financial-aid/>.

FAFSA Application is Open

Though the FAFSA is releasing, FSA has cautioned that it will be a soft launch & to expect possible maintenance pauses, waiting rooms, & other delays through January.

Families should not feel rushed to complete the FAFSA immediately during the soft launch. FAFSAs will not be processed & sent to colleges until later in January. With that said, colleges encourage you to set a goal for February/March so you don't face any other delays with getting your financial aid offer.

Financial Aid offices will email students as soon as their financial aid offer is available. This will be sent to their college email account so it's a great reminder to set that up & check it regularly.

TIPS FOR PARENTS: GETTING FINANCIAL AID FOR COLLEGE

Set up your FSA ID now. Student and parent both need an FSA ID. This is the best thing you can do to be ready to submit as soon as possible.

Know your EFC. EFC stands for Expected Family Contribution and is the number that drives the need-based financial aid system. You are only eligible for need aid (grants, subsidized student loans, work study) if your EFC is less than the cost of attendance. Now is the time to make this calculation so you can decide if you should apply for aid. Unless your EFC is considerably more than the highest cost college on your child's list, plan to apply for aid. And here's another rule: Regardless of the EFC result, if in your own mind you feel you need assistance, apply and let the college aid office decide if you will receive money.

Use the calculators. Many parents wonder, "How do I figure out my EFC?" EFC calculators are available at www.collegeboard.com and www.finaid.org.

Reach out to the college financial aid counselor. The awarding of aid is a local issue. The EFC you come up with is a good starting point to get a rough idea of need eligibility, but college aid policies can change the calculator EFC by thousands of dollars. On top of this, an aid officer has the authority to use professional judgment to make further changes. Given all that takes place in the campus aid office to affect your EFC, if you have questions or concerns about how much money you will get, contact the college aid counselor.

Don't count yourself out. There is no income cutoff for financial aid. The EFC is derived from four main factors: family size, total income, assets, and number of children in college. Moreover, the more expensive a college is, the higher the EFC can be and still qualify for aid. To give you an idea, a family earning \$150,000 with a child attending an in-state public university will probably not qualify for aid. A family earning \$250,000 with two children attending private colleges probably will.

Complete the FAFSA. Believe it or not, completing the basic aid application—the FAFSA—is not as bad as it looks. It is done online (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and I would recommend you complete the worksheet before entering your numbers.

Meet the deadlines. It is not exactly first come, first served in the aid office, but nearly every college has a limited aid budget, and when the dollars run out, they stop giving aid. Late applications stand a good chance of showing up when there is no money left. But here's the good news: There are billions and billions of dollars out there ready to go to millions and millions of college students. If you become an educated aid consumer and complete the forms accurately and on time, there is a good chance that you will receive the aid you are eligible for.



SCHOLARSHIPS



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES - All colleges and Universities have a number of scholarship opportunities for new freshman. The applications can be found on-line at their individual foundation office websites. These scholarships will **not** be listed in your One-Liner so you must seek these out on the internet. Deadlines range from December 1 to February 1.

Southwest Tech Online Scholarship Application went LIVE on December 1st

NATIONAL, STATE & REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Premier Cooperative Scholarship – Deadline: Jan. 5, 2024

Grant Co Dairy Herd Improvement Association – Deadline: Jan. 31, 2024

WI Professional Police Association – Deadline: Feb. 1, 2024

Wisconsin Education Association – Deadline: Feb. 1, 2024

Aiden Hoffman & William Neises – Deadline: March 1, 2024

Note: This is a local scholarship for River Ridge graduates

Wisconsin Security Association – Deadline: March 1, 2024

Platteville Area Retired Educators' Association – Deadline: April 1, 2024

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative – Deadline: April 3, 2024

Ab Nicholas Scholarship Foundation – Deadline: April 30, 2024